



The Second Epistle to the Corinthians

Introduction & Chapter 1

“The God of All Comfort”

- Author: Paul
- Date written: A.D. 57
- Written from: *Philippi*
- Theme: *Comfort* – *Authority* – *Encouragement*
- Book outline: Chapters 1 – 7 – *The Comfort of God (Affection)*
Chapters 8 – 9 – *The Concern of God (Attention)*
Chapters 9 – 13 – *The Care of God (Authority)*
- Key verses: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 - *For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*
- Christ in 2 Corinthians: Jesus is presented as the believer's *comfort* (1:5), *triumph* (2:14), *Lord* (4:5), *light* (4:6), *judge* (5:10), *reconciliation* (5:19), *substitute* (5:21), *gift* (9:15), *owner* (10:7), and *power* (12:9).

Chapter 1 – “The God of All Comfort”

(v1-2) Greetings always include “*God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,*” plus “*GRACE & PEACE.*”

(v3-7) *God COMFORTS us in our:*

- *TRIBULATION* (v4) – Christ will deliver us from tribulation (Mark 4:35-41)

- SUFFERINGS (v5) – Christ will heal our sufferings (Luke 8:40-55)

- AFFLICTION (v6) – Christ will alleviate our affliction (Acts 16:20-34)

(v8-11) Three strategies for daily victory:

(1) Keep your HOPE STEADFAST (v7);

- Let us understand our Paul's CHRISTIAN HOPE for the Corinthian believers: This HOPE is a confident expectancy. In the Bible, the word hope stands for both the act of hoping (Rom 4:18; 1 Cor 9:10) and the thing hoped for (Col 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3). Hope does not arise from the individual's desires or wishes but from God, who is Himself the believer's hope: "My hope is in You" (Ps 39:7). Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future (Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1,7). Hope distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever, who has no hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). Indeed, a Christian is one in whom hope resides (1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:3). Christian hope comes from God (Rom 15:13) and especially His calling (Eph 1:18; 4:4), His grace (2 Thess 2:16), His Word (Rom 15:4) and His gospel (Col 1:23). Our HOPE is directed toward God (Acts 24:15; 1 Peter 1:21) and Christ (1 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:1). Its appropriate objects are eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7), salvation (1 Thess 5:8), righteousness (Gal 5:5), the glory of God (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27), the appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13) and the resurrection from the dead (Acts 23:6; 26:6-7). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(2) IN GOD WE TRUST (v8-10); (Proverbs 3:1-12)

(3) Help one another through PRAYER! (v11)

- Warren Wiersbe writes, "God works out His purposes in the trials of life, if we yield to Him, trust Him, and obey what He tells us to do. Difficulties can increase our faith and strengthen our prayer lives. Difficulties can draw us closer to other Christians as they share the burdens with us. Difficulties can be used to glorify God. So, when you find yourself in the trials of life, remember what God is to you and what God does for you."

(v12-14) Our boasting: Conduct yourself in this world with SIMPLICITY & GODLY SINCERITY.

(v15-24) Notice the key elements to our FAITH:

(v15-18) GOD is FAITHFUL;

(v19) JESUS CHRIST is YES;

(v20) The PROMISES of God in Him are YES;

- Here is twelve promises of God amongst a multitude:

- 1. God's presence—"I will never leave thee" (Heb. 13:5)***
- 2. God's protection—"I am thy shield" (Gen. 15:1)***

3. God's power—"I will strengthen thee" (Isa. 41:10)
4. God's provision—"I will help thee" (Isa. 41:10)
5. God's leading—"And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them" (John 10:4)
6. God's purposes—"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil" (Jer. 20:11)
7. God's rest—"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28)
8. God's cleansing—"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)
9. God's goodness—"No good thing will He withhold from them that work uprightly" (Psalms 84:11)
10. God's faithfulness—"The Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake" (1 Sam. 12:22)
11. God's guidance—"The meek will He guide" (Psalms 25:9)
12. God's wise plan—"All things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28)

(v21-22) You are ANOINTED and SEALED by the HOLY SPIRIT;

(v23-24) We are FELLOW WORKERS for your JOY!
(Jesus—Others—You)

- Joy is found 155 times in the Bible; rejoice or rejoicing 211 times, equaling 366 times; enough for every day of the year!